

Summary of the Vision Proposal for the Capitol Lake Basin

Submitted for Review to the Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan Steering Committee

April 4, 2002

A. INTRODUCTION

This overview outlines the **VISION PROPOSAL FOR THE CAPITOL LAKE BASIN** as submitted by the North Capitol Campus Stakeholder Committee. The vision was reviewed and refined during stakeholder committee meetings held February 21, 27, 28 and March 20, 2002. During its final session, the committee unanimously endorsed the vision and directed that it be presented to the CLAMP steering committee. *Furthermore, it is the recommendation of the stakeholder committee that this vision proposal be endorsed by the CLAMP steering committee and be integrated into the CLAMP ten-year plan.*

This vision proposal is both an assessment and a synthesis of the experience, research and values established throughout the stakeholder committee's Preliminary Use Plan (PUP) (published in December, 2002). This proposal is also designed to meet the Adaptive Management Criteria outlined by the CLAMP steering committee.

The intent of this vision is to complete the process of providing options for public use and activities within the Capitol Lake basin. The proposal provides a vision reflecting not only the personality of a local community, but also the personality of the state and national interest as well.

The vision proposal is developed within the context of three separate areas. All three areas include the six sites designated as requiring "sub campus plans" for the State Capitol Campus Master Plan.

- "Area A" addresses the geography of the middle and south basins of Capitol Lake.
- "Area B" addresses the north basin of Capitol Lake.
- "Area C" addresses the Percival Creek watershed.

This vision does not preclude, address or seek to amend the previously approved master plan for Heritage Park. This includes all seven phases of Heritage Park construction, the construction of the representation of the Washington Territorial Capitol Building and the Millennium Carillon.

In general, the proposal is characterized by six major integrated components:

1. Utilization of dredging as a proactive response to the accumulation of sediments in the lake basin by deliberately creating islands in both the middle and north basins.

2. Construction of a public boardwalk beginning at the nexus of the north and middle basins, extending the entire length of the middle basin while following the eastern shoreline, and ending with a south entrance at the old Tumwater brew house.
3. Placement of an island in the north basin created from dredge spoils and designed as a wildlife bird sanctuary.
4. Reconstruction of the Capitol Lake Dam to include a low-flow hydroelectric power unit, salmon ladder viewing and Capitol Dome viewing platform.
5. Engagement of the Percival Creek watershed as a public recreation, education and transport corridor by extending a bike/running trail from Marathon Park to the South Puget Sound Community College Campus.
6. Creation of education, art and activity opportunities that invest in both the identity of the State Capitol grounds as well as the community.

B. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR INTEGRATED COMPONENTS

B.1 Creating Islands from Dredging Spoils

A summary review of dredging constraints, possibilities and conclusions are detailed in the CLAMP 2002-2012 Vision document (CV p. 38-41) and the 1999-2001 Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), Chapter 7.

The Vision Proposal adopts the conclusion that removal of dredging spoils off site is not feasible due to both expense and risk of spreading noxious weeds and other contaminants. It likewise addresses the philosophical division of whether or not dredging is an appropriate activity in the basin areas (CV p. 6).

Taking a proactive approach by creating a series of interlacing islands within the middle basin and having a placement bias along the eastern shoreline, the proposal addresses cost, contaminants, and wildlife management concerns.

The proposed movement of spoils within the basin can be achieved through use of the "hydraulic dredge" as recommended in the 1999-2001 Adaptive Management Plan (AMP p. 7.6). The islands, as well as dredge channels, can be constructed to substantially increase salmon, wildlife, and native plant habitat priorities (PUP p. 50; CV p. 28). **In addition, the islands will create a viable wetland infrastructure that does not preclude either lake or estuarine adaptive management options in the future.** Beyond positive aspects of cost and environmental enhancement, the islands will also produce a higher level of aesthetic value and landscape quality to the basin areas.

B.2 Construction of Public Boardwalk

Construction of a public boardwalk linking the southern reach of Heritage Park to Tumwater Falls Park addresses Stakeholder and Clamp priorities to increase the City of Tumwater's presence in the Capital Lake Basin Plan (PUP p. 5, 39, 45; CV p. 20). **Located on public property, the proposed boardwalk also fulfills an original priority of the Wilder and White Plan to extend a "boulevard to Tumwater along the water's (eastern) edge" (AMP p. 2.1).**

Extending out over the water and following along the eastern shoreline, the boardwalk would be screened by the interlacing islands created from the dredge spoils. Creating both a physical and psychological link between Olympia and Tumwater, the boardwalk would provide a safe, predictable, and expanded environment for use by residents as well as visitors. In tandem, the interlacing islands and boardwalk directly address the GA Vision Statement "to support a variety of public uses and an optimum aquatic environment" (CV p. 4).

Respectively, the boardwalk dramatically expands design opportunities to address Stakeholder priorities for public use (PUP p. 4, 50, Appendix I). Designated as a wildlife sanctuary, the boardwalk would provide numerous social amenities accessible to seniors, adults and children alike. Wildlife viewing and education centers, along with interpretive, commemorative and various art elements are a few of several activities that would invite community participation and foster public protection of the basin area (PUP p. 3, D.10). In combination with the proposed pedestrian bridge linking Tumwater Historical Park with the Old Olympia Brewery, the boardwalk provides a complete loop within the Capitol Lake Basin.

B.3 Island Placement in North Basin of Capitol Lake

Placement of an island in the north basin is identified by Stakeholder priorities to address sediment loading, wildlife habitat enhancement, amenities which create excitement and discovery, provision of seamless use design, and acknowledgement of Native American heritage (PUP p. 3; CV p. 28).

Created from dredge spoils, island location would be in the southwest quadrant of the north basin and similar in size to Marathon Park. Design features would include: an appropriate range of native plant species; a waterfall that would oxygenate a protected cove; wetland shallows; wildlife viewing features; and sites for art and sculpture.

Designated as a wildlife bird sanctuary, the island would lend a sense of surprise and mystery to the present lake scenery and enhance viewing opportunities for those visiting Heritage Park (AMP p. 10.1). **The location would not detract from opportunities to view the Capitol dome and would provide a seamless and integrated "river of connection" with islands in the middle basin (AMP p. 6.5).**

Referred to as the "Steh-Chass" Bird Sanctuary, the name underscores the opportunity such an island provides: an invitation for the unique and sustained participation of the Squaxin Tribe. For example, an invitation could be extended to relocate Squaxin artifacts recovered during parkway renovation onto the island. The island could likewise be dedicated as a commemorative to our State's continuing relationship with its Native American heritage (PUP p. 3).

B.4 Reconstruction of the Capitol Lake Dam

A summary discussion of the historical intent, design and use of the Capitol Lake Dam can be found in the CLAMP 2002-2012 Vision (CV p. 8, 22-25, 32) and the 1999-2001 Adaptive Management Plan (AMP p. 2.1, 5.1).

The proposal addresses the dam as a primary tenet in defining use patterns throughout the basin. As such it provides a reflection surface for the State Capitol, the retention of sediment as a service to the Port of Olympia, and the creation of freshwater wetland habitat values in place of estuarine habitat values. Recognizing the philosophical divisions shared by committee members with respect to dam retention and removal, the proposal takes a proactive relationship to accentuating the reality of the dam while encumbering the function of the dam to be as "porous" as possible (CV p. 6).

The proposal would rename the dam, (such as the Deschutes River Dam), to underscore conclusions that adaptive management for an "optimum aquatic environment" must address attributes of the Deschutes River system, not only the confines of Capitol Lake (CV p. 32; AMP p. 8.1). The proposal includes "putting the dam to work" by installing a low-flow hydroelectric unit that would not only power the Steh-Chass Island waterfall, but provide community educational opportunities. Similarly, the fish ladder would be reconstructed to provide greater education and observation on behalf of the public. In acknowledgement that the river does not stop at the dam, a kayak portage park would be created to bridge Budd Inlet and the north basin.

Extending over the water from the south side of the dam, a large observation balcony/platform would present visitors with the view that the dam was originally designed to inspire. Designed to be the same diameter as the Capitol dome, the platform would act as a Capitol Campus satellite with education and interpretive signs of the Capitol grounds. In addition, the balcony/platform would be designed to relieve Deschutes Parkway bike lane and pedestrian sidewalk constriction at the point of the dam. Both pedestrian and bike lanes could be channeled to enter off of the parkway and around the dam via the balcony/platform.

B.5 The Percival Creek Watershed

The Percival Creek Watershed component includes aspects for Percival Cove (PUP p.33-35; CV p. 26-27) and Percival Parcel (PUP p. 29-32). It is anchored by the engagement of the Percival Creek watershed as a public recreation, education and transport corridor. Extending a bike/running trail from Marathon Park to the South Puget Sound Community College Campus, the proposal also includes a separate bike lane and bridge at the nexus of the north and middle basins.

With the removal of the WDFW salmon net pens in Percival Cove, the proposal includes creating a public boardwalk that would extend from the Percival Creek Trail and out over the water to the center of the cove. A community amphitheater and children's fishing pier would adjoin the boardwalk in the center of the cove (PUP p. 33, 50-51).

Within Percival Parcel, the proposal locates a Department of Transportation roadside rest stop and picnic area. Complementing renovations of the Deschutes Parkway, the rest stop would also fulfill

needs for additional parking (PUP p. 29). The rest stop would act as a satellite facility for activities and services provided by the Capitol Campus to both visitors and the community. Additionally, the rest stop would be the station for a solar enhanced electric trolley that would access the present rail system and give public tours of ravine and wildlife restoration efforts within the Percival watershed.

B. 6 Creation of Education and Activity Opportunities

Creation of education and activity opportunities, which invest in both the identity of the State Capitol grounds as well as the community, are identified as priorities throughout the Stakeholder Committee's Preliminary Use Plan (PUP p. 3-4, 39, D.10; CV p. 18-21).

Each of the opportunities identified in the proposal specifically addresses the PUP Vision Statement: "All areas should have a sense of continuity, be well maintained and secure, be open to public use, vibrant with people and activity, and linked to the communities beyond." (PUP p. 39).

- **Kayak Wildlife Waterway & Sculpture Park:** Centered within the slews of the interlaced islands, this area would enhance community presence and investment in protecting and enjoying the basin area. Sculptures could be located throughout the islands and visible by either boardwalk or boat. The location of a gazebo mid-basin and off shore of the islands, accessible only by boat, provides another example of the numerous activity opportunities this area provides.
- **Activity Gazebos and Viewing Platforms:** Extending off the middle basin boardwalk, these centers would provide education, recreation, research, art, and social opportunities from wildlife education exhibits and bird blinds to sun decks and workshop space.
- **Community School Science Classroom/Art Studios:** Located in the old brew house at the Tumwater entrance to the boardwalk, this satellite classroom and research station would be available to school groups throughout the state.
- **North Basin South Shore Activities:** Potential opportunities would include a Wildlife Sanctuary Satellite Interpretive Station located in Heritage Park; a Kiosk Plaza at the base of the trail from the basin to the Capitol Campus; a Geological Obelisks "Sands of Time" Quote Commemorative; and Seven Generations Commemorative Tree Grove
- **Marathon Park "It's a Physical World" Activity Center:** This area provides numerous opportunities as a "launching pad" for public recreation, education, and engagement. With the potential to fulfill every aspect of the PUP Vision Statement, the area would include a Kayak & Canoe Landing Cove and a Boardwalk Viewing & Picnic Platform. As an area where the "locals hang-out", it will provide opportunities to engage and to connect residents to the welfare of the basin area.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Several factors that compromise the enhancement capacities of the Capitol Lake Basin have been identified in both the CLAMP Vision and Stakeholder Committee's Preliminary Use Plan. They range from issues of safety and public use to water quality and the invasion of Purple Loosestrife and Eurasian Milfoil (PUP p. 53; CV p. 36). Volunteer

contributions by local residents are essential to the health of the overall basin. Activities, such as a Ravine Restoration & Neighborhood Stewardship Project for the Percival Creek Watershed, or an organizational meeting room located in the Percival Parcel Roadside Rest Stop are important in enhancing such engagements.

C. SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE OF VISION PROPOSAL

The stakeholder committee was given the assignment to dream - to explore the realm of possibilities for what the lake could look like ten-twenty-thirty years into the future. As each of the six major vision components were discussed, creative ideas flowed from the committee. The wealth of knowledge and experience among the committee members provided a balance of excitement and caution. Every comment at every committee meeting was noted and documented.

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Capitol Lake Basin Vision Proposal

Section A - Middle and South Basins

- A.1 Boardwalk - Olympia Entrance
- A.2 Braided Islands (created from dredging)
- A.3 Wildlife Education Exhibits along Boardwalk
- A.4 Activity Gazebos, Bird Blind, Viewing Platform
- A.5 Kayak Wildlife Waterway & Sculpture Park
- A.6 Parkway Viewing Platform
- A.7 Boardwalk - Tumwater Entrance
- A.8 Community School Science Classroom/Art Studios
- A.9 Connection to Olympia Woodland Trail
- A.10 Wetland Mitigation Site

Section B - North Basin

- B.1 Steh-Chass Wildlife Island Bird Sanctuary
- B.2 Squaxin Tribal Commemorative
- B.3 Waterfall & Oxygenated Cove
- B.4 Sculpture Park and Island Dredging Build-out
- B.5 Deschutes River Hydroelectric Dam
- B.6 Salmon Ladder & Hydroelectric Education/Viewing Station
- B.7 Capitol Reflection Viewing & Education Platform
- B.8 Park of the Oars Boat Portage & Kayak Spillway
- B.9 Wildlife Sanctuary Satellite Interpretive Station
- B.10 Community Vendor & Kiosk Plaza
- B.11 Geological Obelisks "Sands of Time" Quote Commemorative
- B.12 Seven Generations Commemorative Tree Grove
- B.13 Bike Bridge & Heritage Park Bike Trail
- B.14 Marathon Park "It's a Physical World" Activity Center
- B.15 Kayak & Canoe Landing Cove
- B.16 Boardwalk Viewing & Picnic Platform

Section C - Percival Creek Ravine and Cove

- C.1 Ravine Restoration & Neighborhood Stewardship Project
- C.2 Community Amphitheater
- C.3 Children's & Seniors' Fishing Hole
- C.4 Percival Creek Bike/Running Trail to SPSCC Campus
- C.5 DOT State Agency Rest Stop, Picnic & Parking Area
- C.6 Solar Electric Trolley Station
- C.7 Urban Riparian Interpretive Tour

● Gazebos



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